

first and second juxtaposed hooks in the blade ends of the first and second halves respectively wherein each hook forms an opening extending from the bottom of the housing toward the top, each opening being defined by a first side, a second side and an apex, wherein the openings and hooks reversibly and bi-directionally retain a tab from a measuring tape in a close and substantially parallel alignment to a surface to be cut, wherein the tape extends laterally from the longitudinal axis of the housing to either the left or the right of the utility knife of the invention, and wherein no additional parts or assembly are needed.

15. A utility knife housing consisting of first and second juxtaposed halves each half having a blade end and a back end, a top and a bottom, and an opening in the blade end extending from the bottom toward the top, each opening defining a hook for removably attaching a measuring tape tab, wherein the hooks are juxtaposed and each is angled to hold a tape measure tab such that the measure may be extended during cutting and held in a position approximately parallel to the surface to be cut.

Remarks

Claims 7-9 and 11-13 have been canceled, and rewritten and amended independent claims 14 and 15 are added by way of this Amendment to replace former independent claims 7 and 11. Support for these amendments is found throughout the Specification, most particularly in Figures 1 and 2 and on pp. 4, 7 and 8. No new matter was added by way of these amendments. The claims are amended to further clarify that the hooks are integrated and a part of the housing, and not an additional part.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 7-9 and 11-13 as being indefinite. Applicant has cancelled claims 8, 9, 12 and 13, causing the Examiner's rejection of these claims to be moot.

The Examiner has rejected independent claim 7 as indefinite for failing to (1) clearly state that the housing of the invention has two parts; (2) clearly describe where the hook is located; (3) provide a reference point for the bi-directionality of the measuring tape; (4) recite a connection between the measuring tape tab and the invention; and (5) claiming a negative limitation without making clear how the limitation limits the previously claimed structure. The Examiner has also rejected Claim 11 on the same grounds, where applicable.

Applicant has rewritten Claim 7 as new Claim 14 to clarify that the housing has two halves, to recite that the hooks are located in the blade end (which is clearly identified in the